

# Important News for NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS



June 28, 2018

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## Important Dates for Nonpublic Schools

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
LSP, TDC	7/7/18	Return LEAP 360 MOU Amendment	School leaders or test coordinators
All nonpublics that received EEF funds	7/15/18	Deadline for EEF recipients to submit their Final 6/30 PERs	School leaders or finance managers

## Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

### New: LEAP 2025 Data Release

The Department will begin releasing the 2018 LEAP 2025 results to school systems this week. Here is the detailed timeline:

- By Saturday, June 30: ELA, math, and social studies student-level results posted in eDIRECT; superintendents and school leaders notified via email
  - Individual student reports can be distributed to families along with a copy of the [Parent Guide to the LEAP Student Reports](#)
- July 9:
  - K8 growth-to-mastery 2018-2019 target rosters in eDIRECT portal (for planning)
  - Embargoed statewide, school-system and school-level 2017-2018 results emailed to superintendents and school leaders
- July 10:
  - Prior to 11:00 a.m.: LEAP 2025 briefing with Superintendent White for superintendents and school leaders

- (details will be provided in email on June 30)
- 11:00 a.m.: LEAP 2025 media briefing on state-level results; statewide, school system and school-level results posted to the website
- Early August:
  - 2017-2018 Teacher VAM results in Compass Information System
  - High school growth-to-mastery 2018-2019 target rosters in [La Data Review System](#)(for planning)
- Mid-August: 2017-2018 Accountability Assessment and Progress index results rosters in [La Data Review System](#)

Email [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

## **Reminder: 2018-19 Transfer Window Opened**

Families that wish to transfer their Scholarship award from one school to another may complete the attached [transfer form](#). The school leader or Scholarship contact of the student's new school must sign off on the transfer and submit to [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov). Transfer forms must be submitted by the school--forms submitted by parents will not be accepted.

Completion of the transfer form is not a guarantee that a transfer will be granted. Schools can not exceed their student enrollment caps. Additionally, newly-awarded students must have accepted their award by the May 25th deadline in order to be eligible for a transfer. Families should not buy uniforms or other supplies until the Department has approved the transfer.

Since the LDOE has received a large number of transfer requests, we appreciate schools patience as we process these requests in the order received.

## **Reminder: Important Information for District Testing Coordinators**

### **General**

- Data certification for ACT and DCAI will begin in early August. It is very important that all changes to district test coordinators (DTCs) or accountability contacts be submitted to the Department using the [DTC and Accountability Contact Update](#) form found in the Assessment Library.
- On June 28, DRC will release an updated version of its DRC INSIGHT secure browser software. This is a required update, and it applies to all operating systems (Windows, MacOS, ChromeOS, and iOS). Districts will need to update to this latest version to complete any LEAP 2025 or LEAP 360 testing after June 28. If LEAs configured devices to auto-update when INSIGHT was installed, the software will automatically download and install this update upon launch. If LEAs did not configure INSIGHT to auto-update, LEAs will need to manually install INSIGHT before completing any testing.
- The Department released [State Placement Test Guidance](#) in the Assessment Library. This test is for school systems to use for students seeking to transfer to a public school in grades 5 or 9 from any in-state nonpublic school, approved home study program, or out-of-state school.

### **LEAP 360**

- LEAP 360 closed for the 2017-2018 school year on June 18. Diagnostic and Interim test setup for 2018-2019 will be available on July 16 in [eDIRECT](#).
- [A District's Guide to LEAP 360](#) serves as support tool for school systems to use when implementing the components of LEAP 360 in schools. School systems should use this guide and its resources to develop a plan for LEAP 360 training, administration, and data analysis and to guide instructional and assessment planning in schools.
- Updates have been made to [A Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360](#) to improve LEAP 360 instruction and implementation. The document is posted to the [Assessment Library](#).
- The new [Parent Guide to LEAP 360](#) can be used to facilitate communication between educators and parents is now available. Translated versions in Arabic, Spanish, and Vietnamese are also available.
- School systems that signed a LEAP 360 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the 2017-2018 school year may choose to continue using LEAP 360 through June 30, 2019, under the same terms and conditions. To opt-in and amend your school system's existing agreement, each Superintendent must sign an [amendment](#) to the original agreement and return an electronic copy to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) by July 7. School systems wishing to participate in LEAP 360 during the 2018-2019 school year need to ensure they also have a [non-summative data sharing agreement](#) on file with the Department.
- School systems should review the following Summit presentations on LEAP 360.
  - [LEAP 360 Overview](#)
  - [A Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360](#)
  - [A District's Guide to LEAP 360](#)
  - [LEAP 360: ELA Deep Dive](#)
  - [LEAP 360: Math Deep Dive](#)

### **LEAP 2025**

- The summer high school assessment window closed on June 25th. In-window student and class level reports are produced daily and are available under the View Reports tab of DRC eDIRECT All Applications area. The LEAP 2025 iGUIDE is also available in eDIRECT to provide details about the data shared in each report type.
- School systems should review the following summit session materials on LEAP 2025.
  - [Math Assessment Make the Case 3-5](#)
  - [Math Assessment Make the Case 6-8](#)

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- [Math Assessment Make the Case A1-GM](#)
- [Social Studies Assessment Results Make the Case](#)
- [Social Studies Assessment Results Make the Case](#)

## LEAP Connect and LAA 1

- Interpretive Guides for understanding [LEAP Connect](#) and [LAA1](#) scoring and reporting are posted to the [Assessment Library](#).
- The LEAP Connect Online Tools Training (OTT) is now posted for ELA and math grades 3-8 and 11. The OTT can be accessed through the INSIGHT Portal or through the [LEAP OTT site](#), and the OTT DTAs are posted in [eDIRECT](#) under General Information.
- School Systems should review the Summit presentations [LEAP Connect Grades 3-8 Results](#) and [LEAP Connect High School Overview](#).

## ELPT and ELPS

- Beginning August 1, the English Language Proficiency Screener (ELPS) will be available for school system use. The ELPS is a tool to determine if students entering Kindergarten through grade 12 are English learners (ELs) who require supplementary support services to continue developing language proficiency in English. Students who do not score proficient on the ELPS will be identified as an EL and can receive an [EL Accommodations Plan](#). The [Summit ELPS presentation](#) and [ELPS Guidance](#) document are posted in the Assessment Library.
- School systems should review the Summit presentation [ELPT Results: Next Steps](#).

## ACT and WorkKeys

- By this Friday, June 29: Superintendents, finance contacts, and DTCs will receive an email containing the 2017-2018 ACT and WorkKeys invoice.
- Payments are due by July 15 and should be mailed to the following address including 17-18 ACT on the check:

Louisiana Department of Education  
 Division of Appropriation Control  
 P.O. Box 94064  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064

Overpayments, if applicable, will be refunded to districts by July 30.

- Please send any new superintendent, finance contact, or DTC contact information, including email address to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) and/or [patricia.gilbert@la.gov](mailto:patricia.gilbert@la.gov).

## Tuition Donation Credit (TDC) Program News

### **New: LEAP 2025 Data Release**

The Department will begin releasing the 2018 LEAP 2025 results to school systems this week. Here is the detailed timeline:

- By Saturday, June 30: ELA, math, and social studies student-level results posted in eDIRECT; superintendents and school leaders notified via email
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Email [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

### **Reminder: Financial Reports Due**

According to Bulletin 134, STO's must submit to the LDOE a financial report at least six months following the end of their fiscal

year. This report should be completed by a certified public account on behalf of the School Tuition Organizations, not individual schools.

Please see Chapter 7 of [Bulletin 134](#) or email [Lindsey.Bush@la.gov](mailto:Lindsey.Bush@la.gov) for more information.

## **Reminder: Donor Credit Report Available**

[Donor credit reports](#) are required to be submitted at the conclusion of the Spring application process. STOs may also submit donor credit reports prior to the required deadlines. STOs should submit this report via the secure FTP site and notify LDOE personnel when the report has been submitted. The LDOE uses this information in the Donor Credit Report to prepare appropriate tax credit documentation.

Please contact [lindsey.bush@la.gov](mailto:lindsey.bush@la.gov) with additional questions.

## **Reminder: Prior School Checks Process Open**

All students who apply for the TDC program must go through the prior school check process. The Department is accepting prior school checks for all TDC applicants. Prior school checks will be accepted every two weeks on Tuesdays. Please upload the template found [here](#) to your organizations FTP and email [lindsey.bush@la.gov](mailto:lindsey.bush@la.gov).

STO's will receive the verified prior school checks within one week. The next prior school check information should be turned in by STOs by Tuesday, July 10th. These will be returned to STOs by Tuesday, July 17th.

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- Data certification for ACT and DCAI will begin in early August. It is very important that all changes to district test coordinators (DTCs) or accountability contacts be submitted to the Department using the [DTC and Accountability Contact Update](#) form found in the Assessment Library.
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## Frequently Asked Questions and Contact Information

Information about the Tuition Donation Credit Program can be found in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and [Scholarship Programs Comparison Chart](#). Currently, Louisiana has four School Tuition Organizations participating in the Tuition Donation Credit Program: ACE Scholarships Louisiana, Arete Scholars Louisiana, New Schools for Baton Rouge Excellence Scholarship Fund, and Son of a Saint. Schools interested in participating in the TDC program should communicate directly with one or more School Tuition Organizations.

School Tuition Organization	Regional Focus	STO Website	Email	Phone
ACE Scholarships Louisiana	Statewide	<a href="http://www.acescholarships.org">www.acescholarships.org</a>	<a href="mailto:TDR@acescholarships.org">TDR@acescholarships.org</a>	504-491-1813
Arete Scholars Louisiana	Statewide	<a href="http://www.aretescholars.org">www.aretescholars.org</a>	<a href="mailto:maryhw@aretescholars.org">maryhw@aretescholars.org</a>	225-245-3610
New Schools for Baton Rouge Excellence Scholarship Fund	Baton Rouge	<a href="http://newschoolsbr.org/our-approach/excellence-scholarship-fund">newschoolsbr.org/our-approach/excellence-scholarship-fund</a>	<a href="mailto:esf@newschoolsbr.org">esf@newschoolsbr.org</a>	225-395-1686
Son of a Saint	New Orleans	<a href="http://www.sonofasaint.org">www.sonofasaint.org</a>	<a href="mailto:hello@sonofasaint.org">hello@sonofasaint.org</a>	504-561-7508

## School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities (SCP)

### **New: Transfer Request Form Available**

In order to transfer a School Choice award from one participating school to another, families and receiving schools should complete a [transfer form](#). Please submit transfer forms to [nonpublicschools@la.gov](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov).

## All Nonpublics

### **New: Policy 2018 Legislative Update**

Please review the [overview](#) of the 2018 Regular Legislative Session. Email [erin.bendily@la.gov](mailto:erin.bendily@la.gov) with any questions.

### **New: Statistical Reasoning Approved as a Core Math Credit**

In their recent joint meeting, BESE and the Board of Regents approved Statistical Reasoning as a core math credit for students on both a TOPS University Diploma and Jump Start TOPS Tech Diploma. School systems/schools interested in implementing this course can contact [Dr. Guillermo Ferreyra](#) for information regarding teacher training and curriculum materials.

Please email [stem@la.gov](mailto:stem@la.gov) with questions.

### **New: Act 250 - Transition Courses**

Please share with administrators and school counselors.

Act 250 of the 2017 regular legislative session requires, beginning in 2018-2019, that each high school senior not having achieved

the established college readiness standards for English and mathematics shall be given the opportunity to take an appropriate transition course.

The Department, in collaboration with public school governing boards and post-secondary management boards, has published a [list](#) of English and math transition courses designed to improve identified student academic weaknesses. In addition to the list of approved transition courses, school systems may identify courses that are designed to improve student academic weaknesses in English or math and are aligned to the Louisiana Student Standards.

An informational webinar will be held to assist school systems with [Act 250 policy implementation](#) for the 2018-2019 school year. No pre-registration is required. Administrators and counselors are encouraged to participate in one of the webinars scheduled for:

- July 11: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- July 17: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

To join the webinar:

- go to <https://zoom.us/j/6191775107>; and
- enter meeting ID# 619-177-5107.

For additional information please contact [highschoolacademics@la.gov](mailto:highschoolacademics@la.gov).

### **Reminder: Submit Final Expense Report for Education Excellence Fund**

If your school or school system received a payment from the 2017-2018 [Education Excellence Fund \(EEF\)](#) this year, please be advised of the following important dates:

- June 30: Deadline for EEF recipients to obligate EEF funds
- July 15: Deadline for EEF recipients to submit Final 6/30 Periodic Expense Reports (PERs)

Please note: Final PERs are used to calculate EEF allocations for the following year, so EEF recipients that do not submit a Final PER by July 15 may experience delays in accessing their EEF funds for 2018-2019.

An important reminder: When completing the PER, notice on the first tab (labeled Expenditure Obligation Summary) that there is a box at the bottom with a checkbox for Final Expenditure. Check that, otherwise your PER will not be reported as Final and it will have to be corrected and resubmitted.

For further information, see [eGMS Payment Quick Reference](#), the [Periodic Expense Report Instructions](#) or contact [tameca.jeanpierre@la.gov](mailto:tameca.jeanpierre@la.gov).

### **Reminder: Fix the FAFSA Event**

Please share with professional school counselors and staff responsible for financial aid planning.

Graduation has passed, but it's not too late for students to fix the FAFSA. The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) will be holding their Fix the FAFSA event for recent high school graduates and parents who need assistance with correcting errors and completing the FAFSA before the Louisiana July 1 priority deadline. This event is open to anyone who needs assistance with the financial aid application process.

Where: Goodwood Library, 7711 Goodwood Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA, 70806

When: June 30 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Please email [brittani.williams@la.gov](mailto:brittani.williams@la.gov) for more information about Fix the FAFSA, or see the [LDOE Regional Financial Aid Calendar](#) for other events being held throughout the state.

The Louisiana Education Loan Authority (LELA) is also available via phone to help any recent high school graduate in need of completing or correcting the FAFSA this summer. Students and parents can call 1-844-463-2372 for live assistance with any FAFSA related question or to receive assistance working through the form. LELA also has scholarships available for recent graduates. Register at <http://lela.org/register>.

For more information please contact [carmichael@lpa.com](mailto:carmichael@lpa.com).

## **Other Department Newsletters**

To view the **June 26th District Newsletter** or the **June 21st Nonpublic Newsletter**, please [visit the LDOE Newsroom](#).

*To be added to the newsletter distribution list, please send an email to [nonpublicschools@la.gov](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov).*

*STAY CONNECTED*

